



BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1942

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

Town Hall,
Lymington.

February, 1943.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Annual Report for the Year 1942.

I have the honour to present you with my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district during 1942.

On the directions of the Ministry of Health, this report is confined to the more important aspects arising from the Public Health Services in the Borough.

<u>Vital Statistics</u>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births	314	158	156
Deaths	269	133	136

Chief Causes of Death

Tuberculosis Pulm.	7	Influenza	3
Cancer	51	Appendicitis	2
Diabetes	3	Other Digestive Diseases	7
Heart Disease	45	Nephritis	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	32	Congenital Causes	3
Bronchitis	22	Suicide	5
Pneumonia	7	Other Violence	10
Enemy Action	1	Other Defined Causes	62

Infectious Diseases

Details of Notified Cases.

Disease	No. Notified	Removed to Hospital	
		Langley	Setley
Measles	40	-	-
Whooping Cough	24	-	1
Cerebrospinal Fever	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	20	8	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Other cases removed to Hospital	-	x 1	-
TOTALS	93	9	1

x Observation Diphtheria.

The number of notifications of measles and whooping cough show a very marked reduction, there being 306 in 1941, and 58 cases in 1942. Scarlet Fever notifications show an increase from 5 in 1941, but they were all very mild, with no deaths. Cerebrospinal Fever, one case only notified, as compared with two in 1941, and four in 1940. Diphtheria - No cases notified during the year.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria

I carried on the work of immunisation which Dr. Hobson had successfully started, and considerable progress has been made. In this connection I would like to express my appreciation of the help which I have received from all the doctors in the Borough. I would also like to specially mention the work done by Dr.H.K.A.Ball, at the Child Welfare Centres, and the able assistance given to me by Miss Heriot Hill. The Headmasters and Mistresses of all the Schools have co-operated, and materially assisted in getting the children immunised.

The following table indicates the progress made, and it will be observed that the estimated population has been increased, in view of later more accurate information.

	Under 5 years	Between 5 & 15 years.	Totals.
Estimated pop. of children	1500	2500	4000
No.immunised prior 1940	26	381	407
" " in 1940	6	127	133
" " " 1941	520	1096	1614
" " " 1942	354	733	1087
Percentages of children treated. To 31.12.41	39%	78%	62%
To 31.12.42	60%	93%	81%

SCABIES

The Scabies Clinic at the Masonic Hall, Lymington, on Tuesday mornings has been continued.

A total of 169 patients attended for treatment, as compared with 70 in 1941. I am very much indebted to the County Health Visitor, Nurse Grigg, Miss Heriot Hill and Mr. Thomas for the help given me.

Nine cases were sent to hospital, including two Impetigo cases.

CASUALTY SERVICES

Mr.Downing Fullerton was appointed Deputy Officer in Charge Casualty Services, which, on the whole, have worked satisfactorily.

WATER SUPPLIES

Lymington Town. One sample of water has been taken at this Corporation-owned undertaking, and the analyst's report was satisfactory. The chlorination of this supply is continuous.

The following table indicates the number of samples taken from various ^{wells} throughout the district, and the analyst's reports.

District	Samples Taken	Analyst's Reports	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Lymington	3	3	-
New Milton	8	2	6
Milford-on-Sea	1	-	1
Pennington	1	-	1
TOTALS	13	5	8

Unsatisfactory Samples.

One unsatisfactory sample from a house at Pennington.

No other supply available. Boiling of water before use was advised.

A well in Hare Lane, Ashley, supplying a dairy farm and private house was unsatisfactory, and the main supply was extended to serve these properties.

The use of the unsatisfactory well at Milford-on-Sea has been discontinued, and the main supply laid on.

Becton Farm. A number of samples have been taken from this well, and the reports have been unsatisfactory. Endeavours have been made to improve the well, but evidently the spring is being contaminated before entering the well. Negotiations are going on with a view to the main being extended to serve this farm.

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

Two samples have been taken from the tank supply at the Lymington and District Hospital, and both reports were satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION

No change - the collection of refuse and salvage on alternate weeks, appears to be working satisfactorily.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The new drainage scheme is now completed and in operation.

Although no general request is being made for properties to be connected to this sewer, the following particulars show that progress is being made in this direction despite labour difficulties.

Details of Premises Connected to New Sewer.

District	1940	1941	1942
New Milton District	-	5	-
Milford-on-Sea	12	-	41
Everton and Hordle	39	36	6
Pennington	24	63	8
Total connected to New Sewer	75	106	55
No. connected to old sewer	16	4	1
Total connections	91	110	56

Where the new sewer has now been made available, all Council Houses have been connected thereto, the work being done by the Borough Engineer's Department.

Further representations have been made to the Ministry of Health regarding connecting Hainault and Lincludin, Lower Pennington, to the main sewer. I am of opinion that it is in the interests of Public Health that these properties should be on the main sewer.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

The shipping entering the port consisted of:-

Coastwise vessels - motor 52. Sailing - nil
Foreign vessels - nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made during 1942 -

	Inspection	Defects	Remedied	
			Informally	Formal Action
Dairies and Cowsheds	310	41	27	2
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yard	5	2	2	-
Meat and Food Shops	220	6	6	-
Factories	80	5	3	-
Shops Act	6	1	1	-
Disinfestation	19	19	19	-
Drainage	156	28	23	-
Housing	85	26	14	1
Dustbins	47	15	8	-
Complaints & Nuisances	109	47	43	-
Moveable Dwellings	4	1	1	-
Bakehouses	29	4	3	-
Water Samples and Supplies	28	4	3	-
Petroleum Regulations	5	-	-	-
Rats and Mice	69	22	20	-
Infectious Diseases	47	-	-	-
Disinfections	35	-	-	-
Food Decontamination	101	-	-	-
Scabies	86	-	-	-
Diphtheria Immunisation	120	-	-	-
Schools	52	-	-	-
Not Classified	23	2	1	-
TOTALS	1636	223	174	3

Formal action was taken in regard to one other cowshed, and this was outstanding at the end of the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Special attention has been given to the factories in the district, and generally speaking, these have been found to be in a satisfactory condition. Attention was given to the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, in view of the increased number of employees, and influx of women workers. The position regarding separate accommodation for the sexes, can be said to be generally satisfactory. Where improvements were required, these have either been done, or are in hand. Defects were found in five factories, three were in respect of unclean sanitary conveniences, and two had inadequate ventilation of the sanitary conveniences.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

Continuous inspections have been made of the Dairies and Cowsheds. A number of these premises have not been kept up to standard, due generally to labour difficulties. However, the position has now very much improved, although it is necessary to keep close observation on a few difficult cases.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS

Sixteen Licences have been issued in the Borough by the County Authority under the above Orders, fifteen in respect of Accredited milk and one in respect of Tuberculin Tested milk.

The defects found during the year were:-

Lack of Limewashing	18	Generally unclean	13
Defective Drainage	3	Defective buildings	1
Approaches	4	Water Supply	2

Notices were served in three cases only, the rest being dealt with, or are in hand as the result of verbal instructions, and letters of request.

Extensive improvements have been carried out at Wootton Hall Farm, and new floorings have been constructed at Blacklands Farm. Efforts are being made to improve the general conditions at Vidle Van Farm, where the buildings and yard are unsatisfactory. One unsatisfactory dairy has now ceased to be used as such.

Five Samples of milk were taken, all of which were satisfactory. Two of them were taken for the presence of B. Typhosus, following a report of suspected Typhoid Fever cases.

HOUSING

Repairs to houses present a problem owing to labour shortage, and to some difficulty in obtaining materials. Twenty-six properties were inspected, 25 of them regarding items of disrepair, and one for suspected overcrowding. Fifteen of these were remedied during the year, one being put in order following the service of an Informal Notice. Efforts are being made to get the outstanding cases dealt with, but I am afraid the position will remain rather unsatisfactory until after the war, unless the labour and availability of building material position improves.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

91 visits to food shops were made for the purpose of examining foodstuffs, and as a result the following were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

Beef	Decomposition	109 lbs.
"	Tuberculosis	300 lbs.
Bacon	Rancid	66 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Sausages	Sour	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Fish (Various)	Out of condition	32 stone
Margarine	"	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Butter	"	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cheese	"	44 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tins of meat	Tins Blown, perforated etc.	89 tins.
" " fish	"	45 "
" " milk	"	318 "
" " beans and peas	"	123 "
" " soups	"	19 "
" " fruit	"	59 "
" " vegetables	"	66 "
" " jams	"	4 "
Prunes	Out of condition	25 lbs.
Fish cakes	"	36 "
Eggs	Bad	28 "
Flour	Fouled	7 lbs.

The beef was returned to the distributors for salvaging, and where possible, other articles of food were used for animal feeding. Part of the butter was eventually used for baking purposes at the local bakehouses.

GENERAL SURVEY

Among the chief causes of deaths, it is interesting to note that the deaths from tuberculosis are two less than last year. Out of 269 deaths, 78 occurred between the ages of 70 and 80 years, 47 occurred between 80 and 90 years, and 11 aged 90 years and over, one death occurring at the age of 99. So just over half the deaths reached the age of three score and ten years.

Regarding infectious diseases, I think the Immunisation against Diphtheria campaign has been very satisfactory, and as far as I can see, is likely to continue to be so. I would like to place on record my appreciation of Mr. Raw's assistance in this

connection, and the way in which he follows up the cases after they have received their 1st injection, so as to ensure their having the complete treatment.

During the year the shell fish layings in the river became contaminated with sewage. Warning notices were erected, but the danger is now over.

The health of the district does not appear to have been adversely affected by war conditions, in spite of the almost insuperable difficulties with regard to housing problems, the housing position being very acute, and likely to remain so for a considerable period after the war is over.

The Council's Senior Sanitary Inspector has rendered me invaluable assistance in my duties, which naturally have been made more difficult by the prevailing conditions, including shortage of qualified staff, and somewhat cramped office accommodation. Mr. Thomas has also helped very considerably in the smooth running of the Department.

I very much appreciate the support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and have found the almost daily contact with Mr. Fullerton to have been of great assistance to me, both in my Public Health duties, and those connected with my position as Officer in Charge Casualty Services.

Yours faithfully,

E. CROFT WATTS.

Medical Officer of Health.

